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Chair: Mr. Tommo Monthe ..... (Cameroon)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Kelapile

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 129: International residual mechanism for criminal tribunals (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.51)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.51: International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

1. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.51 was adopted.*

Agenda item 131: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.37)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.37: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

2. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.37 was adopted.*

Agenda item 141: United Nations common system (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.36)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.36: United Nations common system

3. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.36 was adopted.*

Agenda item 146: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/17; A/C.5/66/L.38, L.46 and L.55)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.38: Cross-cutting issues

4. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.38 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.55: Support account for peacekeeping operations

5. **Ms. Van Buerle** (Secretary of the Committee) said that, in paragraph 14, the word "*Recognizes*" should be replaced by the words "*Also emphasizes*".

6. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.55, as orally amended, was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.46: Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy

7. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.46 was adopted.*

Note by the Secretary-General on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations and the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (A/C.5/66/17)

8. **The Chair** drew attention to the note by the Secretary-General on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations and the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (A/C.5/66/17), which, in accordance with the prorating procedures approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/221 B, indicated the amounts to be apportioned in respect of each peacekeeping mission, including the prorated shares of the support account and of the United Nations Logistics Base. He took it that the Committee wished to take note of the information contained in the note by the Secretary-General.

9. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 134: Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.54)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.54: Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

10. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.54 was adopted.*

Agenda item 147: Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.43)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.43: Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

11. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.43 was adopted.*

Agenda item 148: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.49)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.49: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad

12. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.49 was adopted.*

Agenda item 149: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.45)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.45: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

13. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.45 was adopted.*

Agenda item 150: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.40)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.40: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

14. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.40 was adopted.*

Agenda item 151: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.39)

Agenda item 152: Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.39)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.39: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

15. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.39 was adopted.*

Agenda item 154: Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.47)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.47: Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste

16. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.47 was adopted.*

Agenda item 155: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.50)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.50: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

17. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.50 was adopted.*

Agenda item 156: Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.34)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.34: Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

18. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.34 was adopted.*

Agenda item 157: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.57)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.57: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

19. **Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation) said that, while his delegation joined the consensus on the draft resolution, it would find it difficult to support the agreed language on local procurement the following year. All procurement must comply with existing financial rules and regulations. His delegation expected a comprehensive discussion of the issue at the main part of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

20. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.57 was adopted.*

Agenda item 158: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.56)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.56: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

21. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.56 was adopted.*

Agenda item 159: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.44)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.44: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

22. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.44 was adopted.*

Agenda item 160: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (*continued*)

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.48)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.48: Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

23. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.48 was adopted.*

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.35)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.35: Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

24. **Mr. Belaid** (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, proposed that paragraph 7

should be deleted and the subsequent paragraphs renumbered accordingly.

25. **Ms. Van Buerle** (Secretary of the Committee), recalling that the Committee had considered the draft resolution at its 37th meeting, held on 30 May 2012, said that, in paragraph 11, the phrase "subject to the provisions of the present resolution" should be inserted after the phrase "Budgetary Questions,". In paragraph 16, the amount "517,020,600" should be replaced with the amount "524,010,000". The existing paragraphs 17 to 20 would be updated accordingly.

26. **Mr. Yanouka** (Israel) said that his Government's political and financial contributions to United Nations peacekeeping operations demonstrated its continued commitment to the goals and values of such operations. Israel was proud of its good relations and longstanding cooperation with peacekeeping forces in its region. However, his delegation was disappointed that the draft resolution currently before the Committee contained politicized language that was unhelpful to United Nations peacekeeping, was unrelated to the budget of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), and had no place in such a resolution. The fourth preambular paragraph, and paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 (former paragraph 14), of the draft resolution were intended to institutionalize an anti-Israel narrative within the United Nations. Regrettably, they marred the atmosphere of professionalism, good relations and consensus-building that usually prevailed in the Fifth Committee. Rather than responding to the charges levelled in those paragraphs, his delegation would leave its political comments for the relevant United Nations forums. He was requesting a single recorded vote on the fourth preambular paragraph and on paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 (former paragraph 14) of the draft resolution and would vote against the inclusion of those paragraphs. He called on other delegations to do the same.

27. **The Chair** said that a recorded vote had also been requested on the draft resolution as a whole.

28. **Mr. Khachab** (Lebanon), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that the wording of the paragraphs in question was in no way political, since they called on Israel to pay compensation to the United Nations, not Lebanon, in respect of the bombardment by Israel of the United Nations facilities at Qana in 1996. The amount of $1,117,005 to be paid was a symbolic sum that neither compensated all the innocent victims of the Qana attack nor took into account the slight to the Organization's authority. The four paragraphs in question had been included in all of the 19 draft resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the financing of UNIFIL since the Qana incident. Israel had not complied with any of those resolutions to date; it had also failed to respond to the many letters on the subject transmitted to it by the Secretariat, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for UNIFIL for 2012/13 (A/66/701). The Fifth Committee was the natural forum to discuss the proposed paragraphs of the draft resolution, which related to purely financial matters. He urged all delegations to vote in favour of the proposed paragraphs.

29. **The Chair** said that, owing to a malfunction of the electronic voting system, it would not be possible to take a recorded vote.

30. **Mr. Cumberbatch** (Cuba) said that, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, his delegation wished to express its serious concern at the malfunction of the electronic voting system, which had occurred at a sensitive point in the Committee's work. He suggested that the Committee should take a vote by roll-call in order to conclude its work in a proper manner. The current situation was unacceptable.

31. *A vote was taken by roll-call on the fourth preambular paragraph and on paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 (former paragraph 14) of the draft resolution.*

32. *Saint Lucia, having been drawn by lot by the Chair, was called upon to vote first.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal,

Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

33. *The fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 (former paragraph 14) of draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.35 were adopted by 91 votes to 3, with 47 abstentions.*

34. *A recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution as a whole, as orally amended.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

35. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.35 as a whole, as orally amended, was adopted by 140 votes to 3.*

36. **Mr. Juul-Nyholm** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the acceding country Croatia, the candidate countries Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Ukraine, said that the member States of the European Union were concerned at the lack of consensus on the draft resolution and at the politicization of the Fifth Committee's work. The delegations had abstained during the vote on the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 (former paragraph 14) in the conviction that the text as drafted was inappropriate in a draft resolution pertaining to the financing of UNIFIL. The General Assembly had discussed the broader political aspects of the events concerned, including the incident at Qana, in April 1996, adopting resolution 50/22 C. The member States of the European Union had stated their opinion on those political aspects at that time. While they wished that the deliberations of the Fifth Committee could have been

confined to the budgetary aspects of the financing of UNIFIL, they had nevertheless voted in favour of the draft resolution as a whole, in order to provide the necessary financing for UNIFIL to fulfil its mandate.

37. **Mr. Sheck** (Canada) said that his delegation's decision to vote against the draft resolution should not be construed as an expression of a lack of confidence in the work of UNIFIL. Canada continued to support the valuable work of the Interim Force; however, it considered that some paragraphs of the draft resolution were inappropriate and constituted an attempt to politicize the important work of the Committee. Noting that the resolution called on Israel to compensate the United Nations for the 1996 incident at Qana, he stressed that, as the Fifth Committee was not a tribunal, it was not the proper venue for such a call for payment of damages. His delegation had therefore found itself unable to support the resolution.

38. **Mr. Lieberman** (United States of America) said that, while his Government strongly supported UNIFIL, which was implementing an important mandate, the use of funding resolutions of the General Assembly to pursue claims against a Member State was not procedurally correct. His delegation had therefore also voted against the draft resolutions on this item in previous years, since they provided that Israel should pay costs stemming from the Qana incident. Those resolutions had not been adopted by consensus.

39. The procedure that had been followed almost since the founding of the United Nations was for the Secretary-General to present and pursue the settlement of the Organization's claims against a State or States. Using a funding resolution to legislate a settlement was inappropriate and should be avoided, as it politicized the work of the Fifth Committee.

40. **Mr. Khachab** (Lebanon) said that he was grateful to all those countries that had voted in favour of the draft resolution. His delegation appreciated the sacrifices that had been made by UNIFIL personnel since the Force's establishment and paid tribute to the good coordination between the Force and the Lebanese army. Israel must pay the damages specified in the resolution just adopted, as it had done, in part, following its bombardment of schools operated in Gaza by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

41. **Mr. Cumberbatch** (Cuba) said that his delegation wished to place on record its deep concern at the malfunction of the voting machines at the current meeting. The technicians responsible for the machines had not prepared adequately for such a situation. It was hard to imagine what would happen if a similar problem were to occur at a meeting of a committee such as the First or the Third Committee, which voted on many more draft resolutions than the Fifth Committee. All delegations were aware of the significance and political impact of the voting process. Furthermore, substantial resources had been allocated to the Secretariat, and in particular the capital master plan project, to ensure that the machines worked properly and were capable of supporting the intergovernmental process adequately. The malfunction at the current meeting was therefore unacceptable. The Committee would need to return to that issue at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly in the context of its deliberations on budget performance and progress in the implementation of the capital master plan.

Agenda item 161: Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.52)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.52: Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan

42. **Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation) said that, while his delegation supported the consensus on the draft resolution before the Committee, it noted that the Advisory Committee, in its report on the proposed budget for 2012/13 of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (A/66/718/Add.17), had suggested that the Mission's objectives and indicators of achievement were unrealistic. His delegation also noted the sharp rise in expenditure on civilian personnel and related support. It was to be hoped that the Secretariat, in future budget proposals, would adhere more strictly to the relevant Security Council mandate.

43. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.52 was adopted*

Agenda item 163: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.41)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.41: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

44. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.41 was adopted.*

Agenda item 164: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.42)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.42: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

45. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.42 was adopted.*

Agenda item 165: Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009) (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.53)

Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.53: Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009)

46. *Draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.53 was adopted.*

Agenda item 132: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*) (A/C.5/66/L.58)

Draft decision A/C.5/66/L.58: Questions deferred for future consideration

47. *Draft decision A/C.5/66/L.58 was adopted.*

Completion of the work of the Fifth Committee at the second part of the resumed sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly

48. **The Chair** welcomed the newly appointed Under-Secretary-General for Field Support and invited her to make a statement.

49. **Ms. Haq** (Under-Secretary-General for Field Support) said that, in her previous role as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, she had witnessed the increasing attention paid by the Secretary-General and the Secretariat to delivering ever more complex peacekeeping mandates whilst also ensuring improved cost-effectiveness. She noted that the Fifth Committee, building on the Advisory Committee's recommendations, had successfully tackled some challenging issues in its deliberations during the second part of the resumed session. Her Department would pay close attention to all the resolutions that would shortly be adopted by the General Assembly and would continue to strive to direct, manage and support peacekeeping operations in accordance with the guidance of the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly. Both she and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations deeply appreciated the Committee's commitment and hard work in supporting United Nations peacekeeping operations. She paid tribute to her predecessor and pledged to do her utmost to establish a strong working relationship with the Committee.

50. **Ms. Power** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the acceding country Croatia, said that the current session had produced positive results, and negotiations had been conducted in a constructive spirit. The member States of the European Union were satisfied that the peacekeeping budget levels agreed upon provided the necessary resources for the various peacekeeping operations to implement their mandates, and also took into account the requirement of effective and efficient management of the Organization.

51. The member States of the European Union welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution on cross-cutting issues (A/C.5/66/L.38) and the guidance it provided for more effective peacekeeping. They continued to support the full implementation of the global field support strategy and welcomed the progress made in its various components during the current session. However, a more ambitious decision could have been taken with regard to the comprehensive reprofiling of the Global Service Centre, including its facility in Valencia. The member States of the European Union therefore looked forward to considering the Secretary-General's next annual progress report on the implementation of the global field support strategy, which should contain his end-state vision for the strategy and provide Member States with detailed information on the role and functions to be performed by the Global Service Centre and the Regional Service Centre.

52. With regard to the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA), while the member States of the European Union were pleased that funding had been agreed for the next 12 months, their position of principle was that there should be no backdating of payments of troop costs and contingent-owned equipment before forces were actually integrated under the command of the African Union. In the specific case of UNSOA, no payment should therefore have been made before the date of signature of the memorandum of understanding between the African Union and each troop-contributing

country. The number of troops should also be verified before any payment was made.

53. **Mr. Okochi** (Japan), noting with satisfaction that the session was being concluded in a positive and constructive spirit, said he hoped that such cooperation would be maintained and strengthened in the forthcoming session. While the overall budget for peacekeeping missions agreed by the Committee for 2012/13 was more than 6 per cent lower than the previous year's budget level, that was largely attributable to a reduction in the scale of the mandated activities of several peacekeeping missions. The Secretariat should therefore pursue its efforts to identify more structural and sustainable efficiency gains through, inter alia, the work of the Resource Efficiency Group.

54. Noting that the Committee had agreed on interim measures in respect of troop costs, he encouraged all delegations to actively engage in future discussions on that important issue, in accordance with the recommendations to be made by the senior advisory group to consider rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries and related issues, with a view to reaching a balanced and sustainable long-term solution.

55. **Mr. Ballantyne** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, welcomed the constructive spirit in which all delegations had approached the second part of the resumed session, notwithstanding the heavy programme of work, which had included a number of particularly complex agenda items. The three delegations were pleased with the overall outcome of the Committee's work, and looked forward to a continuation of the same constructive atmosphere at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

56. **Mr. Lieberman** (United States of America), said that, whereas in recent sessions the Committee had been unable to obtain a consensus on some key issues, the current session had demonstrated its ability to tackle and reach consensus on very difficult and complex issues when it chose to do so. He appreciated the constructive spirit with which all delegations had approached the Committee's work. While some language was inevitably not as his delegation would have written it, the outcome of the session was successful for all Member States and for the global peacekeeping partnership. For example, even in the current difficult financial context, the Committee had recognized the contribution of troop-contributing countries with a supplemental payment and had agreed to consider the results of the senior advisory group. At the same time, it had identified significant savings and efficiencies that would not diminish the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. His delegation was pleased that the Committee had agreed to reverse the cuts proposed to the nascent political mission in Libya, which would have significantly affected the mission's ability to fulfil its difficult and crucial work in such areas as human rights and electoral support. In addition to its financial achievements, the Committee had agreed on some significant policy initiatives; for example, it had reiterated its unified support for and commitment to full implementation of the United Nations policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse.

57. His delegation was encouraged by the significant improvements made by the Secretary-General in the area of responsible budgeting for operational costs in peacekeeping. It was to be hoped that the positive trend would continue and that future budget proposals would show similar improvements in the management of civilian personnel. The comprehensive review of civilian staffing requirements called for in the resolution on cross-cutting issues represented a real milestone; along with continued progress in implementation of the global field support strategy, it should result in sustained improvements in both effectiveness and efficiency.

58. **Mr. Coffi** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that he appreciated the spirit of cooperation and sense of duty shown by all delegations in working to bring the Committee's deliberations to a successful conclusion. He was also grateful to all those who had helped to resolve the difficult issue of troop cost reimbursement. In view of the risks faced by both United Nations peacekeepers and the civilian staff of peacekeeping missions, as demonstrated yet again the previous week, when seven United Nations peacekeepers had lost their lives on the Côte d'Ivoire-Liberia border, it was the duty of all Member States to ensure the utmost support for both uniformed and civilian personnel working in peacekeeping operations.

59. **The Chair** declared that the Fifth Committee had completed its work at the second part of the resumed sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.